



Fox River Status Update
May 21st, 2026

**This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

Summary

There is currently 0.10” of rain forecasted for the watershed over the next 7 Days (Figure 4). Inflows are forecasted to continue slowly declining (Figure 1). The Chain, Upper River, and Pool are forecasted to hold near current levels (Figure 2). The Lower River is forecasted to drop slightly from the lack of inflows (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

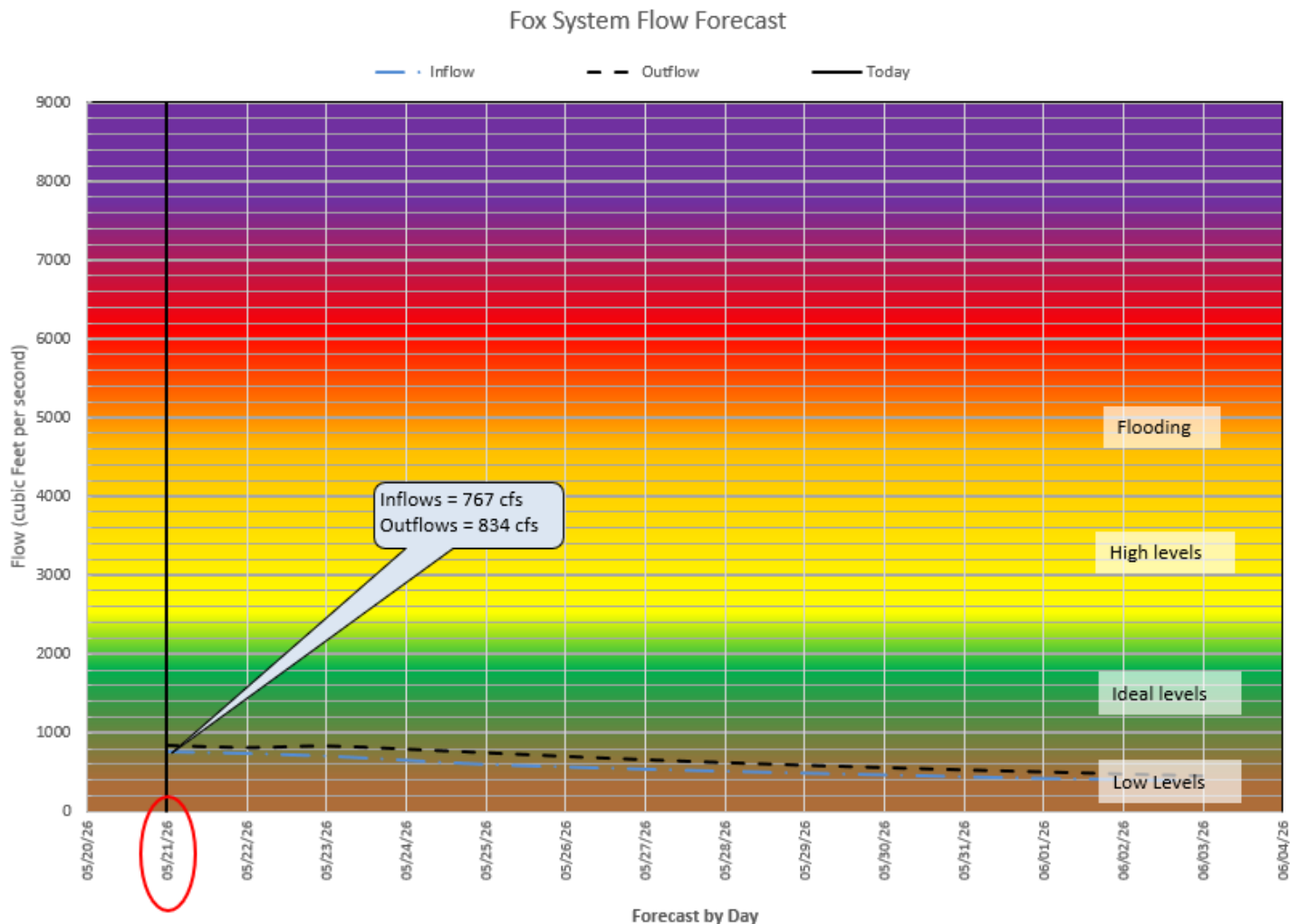


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

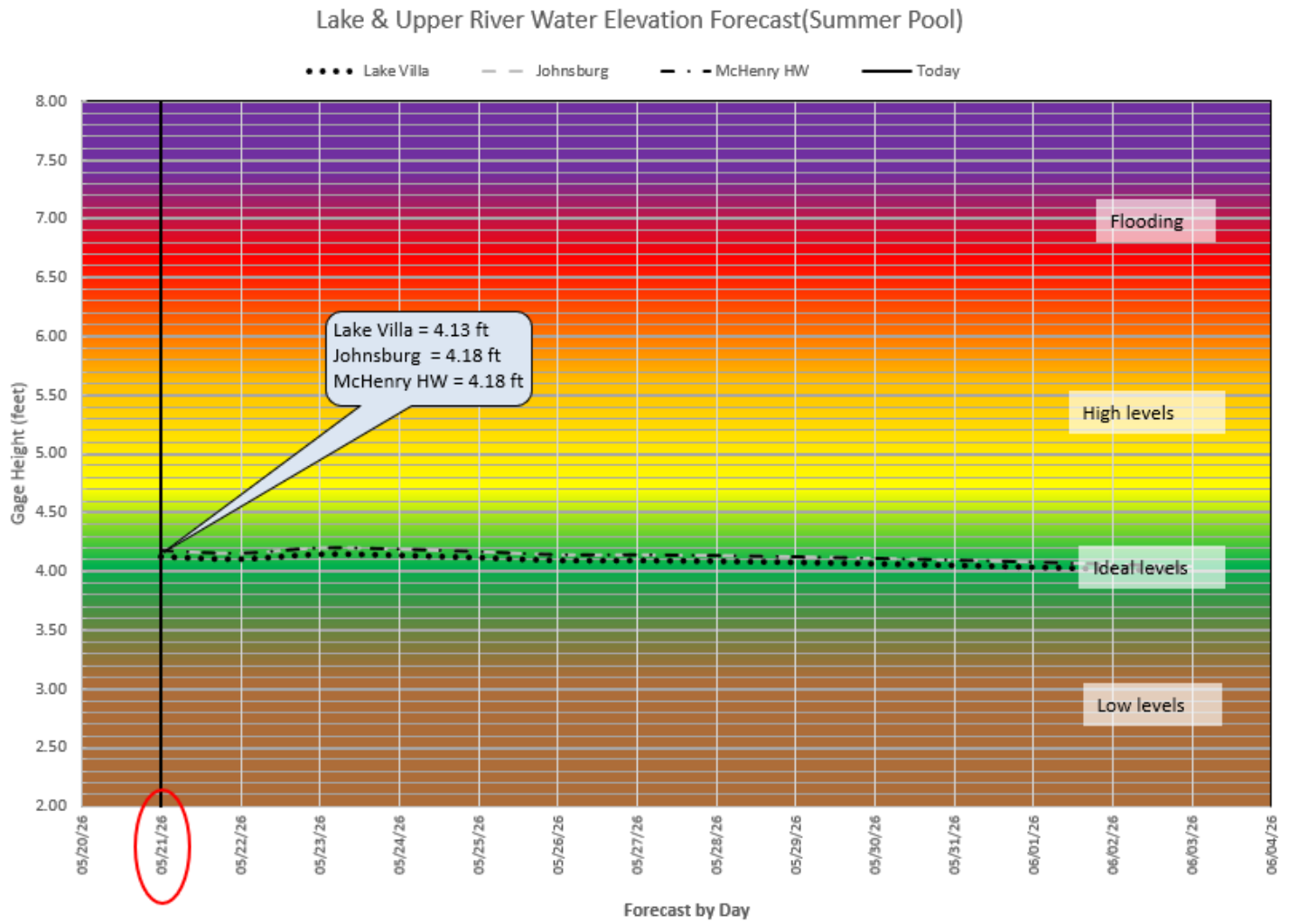
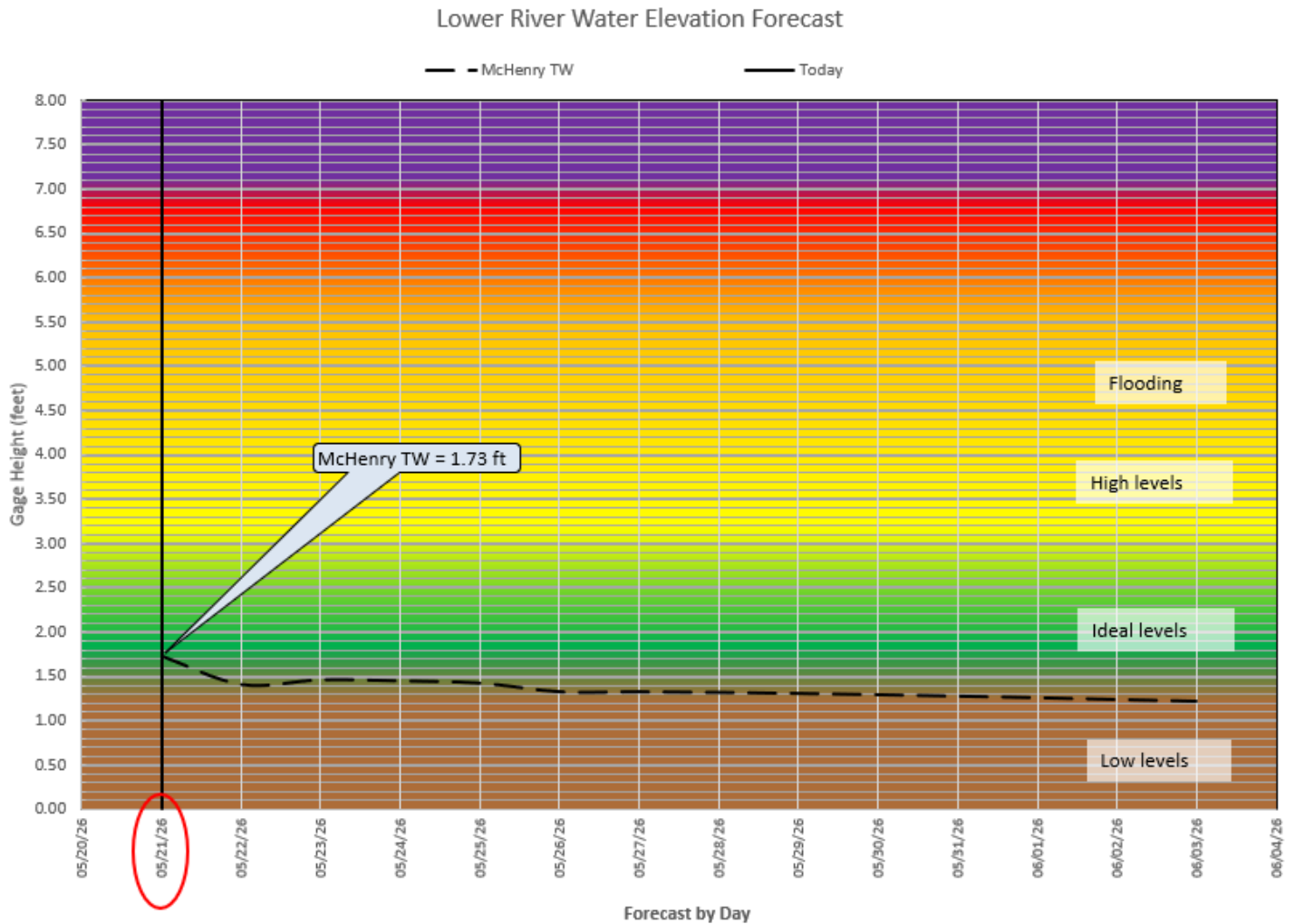


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



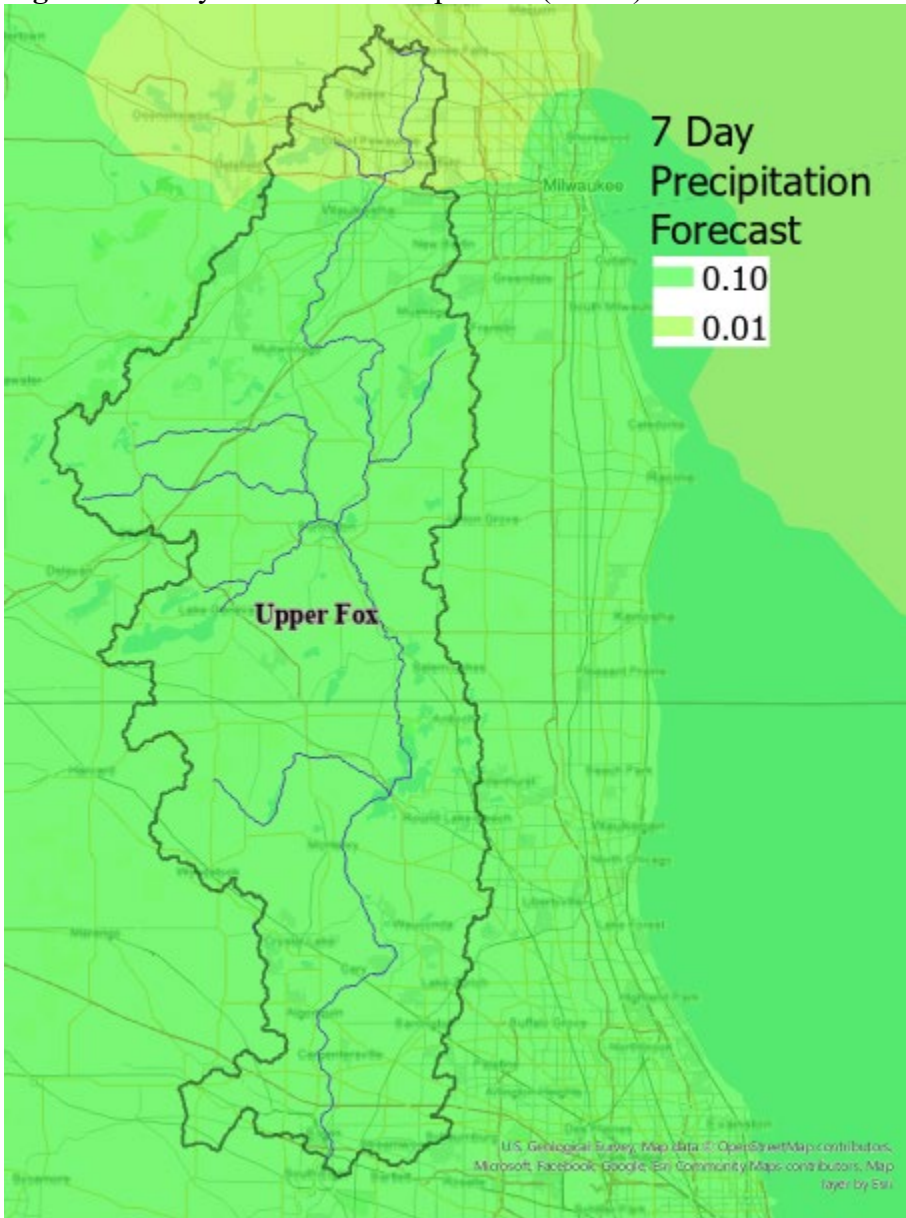
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 488 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is 118 cfs. The total Stratton inflow is 866 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 4.13 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.73 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.88 ft.

Forecast

Inflows will continue to gradually drop over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam will remain near the current levels, as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River should expect to see levels drop some with the reduced inflows, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing 0.10" of rain for watershed over the next week, **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: 7 Day Forecasted Precipitation (inches) for the Fox River Watershed



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels should hold steady over the next week.

McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River will near the same level as the lakes.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river is forecasted to drop a little over the next week.

IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions. Future updates will be made should forecasts change.

Thank you,

Aaron Rotherham
Office of Water Resources
Illinois Department of Natural Resources